Smuggler's BLUES

$\mathcal{E}$ditor's note
50 years later ...

Whew! This has been a busy summer for the Fourteenth District. Case after case has kept the Pacific region in the forefront of Coast Guard operations. We'll take you throughout our vast area of responsibility in this issue. We've even updated the district logo to be truly representative of our entire district.

Looking back through the operational frenzy, there still was the planning for a huge presidential event hanging over us like the Sword of Damocles. Since almost everyone in the district had a part in one or another of the WWII Commemorations around the Pacific, there could have been no better climax to this busy season than the 50th Anniversary of V-J Day.

Ceremonial Honor Guard

I will never forget the looks of joy and appreciation on the faces of the Coast Guard World War II vets as thousands honored their accomplishments and acknowledged their tremendous sacrifice. The whole experience was truly a thrill of a lifetime for me, and the best part of all was meeting the SPARS. I don't think even they understood the trails they were blazing for women's changing roles. These women joined the Coast Guard because they wanted excitement and felt it was the patriotic thing to do. Yet their dedication, enthusiasm and no-nonsense sense of mission pried open doors that would never quite close again.

When was the last time you sang "Semper Paratus?" The next time you hear it, think of this little anecdote. Lt. j.g. Ben Cooper, who coordinated the veteran escorts, and I were having dinner at a Waikiki restaurant with about 30 of our vets right before they were to leave Hawaii to go home. While coffee was being served, one of the veterans rose and started singing "Semper Paratus" prompting the rest of us to stand and sing along. By the time we finished and launched into a rousing rendition of "God Bless America," there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I quickly realized that I was no longer in the midst of 70-year-old people. Singing in that restaurant was a joyous and reverent group of 20-year-olds and I was very happy to be part of it.

Executive Editor

Pacific SHIELD

On The Covers

Front: *An enforcer aboard the Jung Sheng 8 shields his face from the sun. More than 147 Chinese nationals were kept from entering the United States.* Photo by PA1 John Moss
Back: *SPAR poster circa 1940.*